

December 27, 2001

Ms. Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse:

I understand that public comments on the Microsoft settlement are to be brought to your attention. I offer the following:

For Microsoft, for consumers, and for thousands of information technology businesses that rely upon the Windows platform, this settlement offers the chance to get back to work. It's regrettable that this settlement goes beyond the issues upheld on appeal. In addition, we may all regret having a committee and the Court supervise the future of software design. Nevertheless, this settlement would bring to an end the most disruptive competitor-driven antitrust campaign in our nation's history, and that, more than anything else, is something for everyone to celebrate.

Let me close by saying that given that the economy is now in recession, the last thing we need is more litigation and regulation of the high-tech industry.

Sincerely yours,



Mary-Margaret P. Cash
201 Colonial Court
Lynchburg, VA. 24503